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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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November 1, 2005

Honorable Glenn A. Fine
Inspector General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 4322
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Via Facsimile: 202-616-9898

Dear Inspector General Fine:

We write to request that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) expand its investigation into the demotion of former US Attorney Frederick A. Black to include an inquiry into lobbyist Jack Abramoff's possible access to a classified Justice Department report.

On August 23, 2005, we requested that the OIG investigate the circumstances surrounding the demotion of Mr. Black, the former Acting United States Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) because of concerns that the demotion was politically motivated.¹ The OIG and a September 27, 2005, *New York Times* report indicate that such an investigation is underway.²

As you are aware, the November 2002 demotion of Mr. Black came just days after he alerted Justice Department officials that he was investigating Mr. Abramoff.³ Additionally, we have recently obtained information suggesting that Mr. Abramoff may have also used his personal influence within the Justice Department to gain access to a classified review of CNMI immigration laws.

¹Letter from Reps. John Conyers, Jr. and Madeleine Z. Bordallo to Inspector General Fine, August 23, 2005, on file with the United States House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Minority Office.

²Philip Shenon, Demotion of a Prosecutor is Investigated, *New York Times*, September 27, 2005.

³*Id.*

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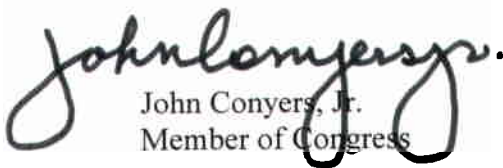
In an e-mail exchange dated October 1, 2001, Mr. Abramoff reportedly informed his client contact at the CNMI that "the bad guys who still work there [at the Justice Department had] ... started a drum beat that the CNMI had to be taken over, because it was a loophole in the federal immigration network, and that, as such, was a threat on terrorism. They have been spending a week or so telling everyone who will listen that the CNMI, if it is not taken over, will be a major entry point for terrorists." Mr. Abramoff further explained that "we had the COS of the Justice Department in our box at today's Redskins game and it seems that there might be a classified document floating in the department which deals with this matter."⁴

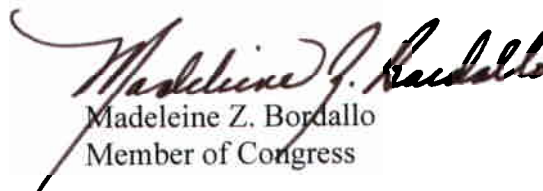
Mr. Abramoff assured his client that he was "supposed to see the Attorney General next week" and that another lobbyist in his group "was slated to play basketball with him before then" and that they will "both mention this to him." He noted that while the "AG will be fine" the "underlings are a worrisome matter." He also indicated that "we'll pass on what we get from the COS, and you guys should do your best to hook up with as many Asst AGs as possible and the political folks there."

Given Mr. Abramoff's e-mail, we are concerned that Administration and Justice Department officials may have played a role in providing Mr. Abramoff with access to classified information. Again, we ask that the OIG expand its current investigation into Mr. Black's demotion to include an inquiry into Jack Abramoff's possible access to a classified Justice Department report.

We appreciate your prompt consideration of this matter. Please reply through the Judiciary Committee Democratic office, 2142 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (tel:202-225-6504; fax: 202-225-4423).

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. F. James Sensenbrenner
Hon. William E. Moschella

⁴ Email from Jack Abramoff (abramoffj@gtlaw.com) to Maya Kara (maya@saipan.com) October 1, 2001, on file with the United States House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Minority Office.